

Report of the Celtic Division

At the Fourteenth Session of UNGEGN in 1989 Ireland was the sole member of the Celtic Division. Since then France has decided to participate in the work of the Celtic Division in addition to membership of the Romano-Hellenic Division. One short meeting took place in July 1991 between an Irish and a French expert to exchange information.

In Ireland work continues on the standardization of the Irish Gaelic form of geographical names. This work is at both national and local level. While a standardized English language form of the names exists, that is, the form on the maps of the Ordnance Survey, the national mapping agency, many names have one or more variant English forms in current use. This potential source of problems has been brought to the notice of the principal state users of electronic geographical information systems with a view to effecting standardization.

Standardization of urban geographic names (streets, housing estates etc.) in a bilingual context is also being advanced through discussion with local authorities. In this context the example of similar activities in Finland have been found very useful.

The Ordnance Survey of Ireland is in constant contact with the official Placenames Research Unit of Northern Ireland and cooperation with that Unit is continuous.

An illustrated record of the period 1824 to 1991 entitled Ordnance Survey in Ireland has been published jointly by the Ordnance Survey of Ireland and the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (ISBN 0-904996-02-6).

The concise bilingual Gazetteer of Ireland mentioned at the 1989 session has been published (International Standard Book number ISBN 0-7076-0076-6) and a copy will be sent to any member of UNGEGN who requests it.